

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 10, 11, 13 and 15 have been amended to more clearly define the invention as previously presented in an Amendment After final filed August 20, 2004. Claim 1 has been amended to remove reference to the grouped materials in the continuous tube. Claims 2, 3 and 15 have been amended to reflect the amendment to claim 1. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to remove the antecedent basis issue noted in the Office Action relating to “the wall.” This feature is disclosed in the specification on page 5, line 34 to page 6, line 2. Claim 13 has been amended to address a typographical error.

New Claims 17-20 have been added to further distinguish over the references. Claims 17-20 are supported by the Figures 5-8.

Advantages of having a plurality of ribs per horizontal row and arranging alternating rows and columns of ribs, as recited in Claim 17 and 19, are discussed at page 3, lines 5-9. In contrast, Hille shows only a single rib per horizontal row. Thus, Hille et al is susceptible to stress forces discussed at page 3, lines 7-9.

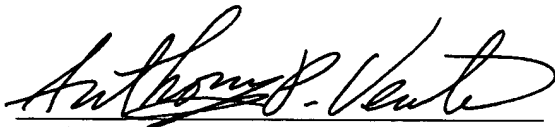
Advantages of tapering the ribs towards the distal end as recited in Claim 18 and 20 are discussed at page 3, lines 5-9 and page 5, lines 21-26. In contrast the preferred (only shown) embodiment of Hille et al tapers in the opposite direction.

It is respectfully submitted no new matter is being added by these amendments.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections are overcome. Thus, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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